

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the abstract with the following:

Polypeptides possess a novel activity, namely endo-xylogalacturonase activity. These polypeptides can degrade pectin found in plant extracts and plant materials, and in particular the “hairy” regions of pectin polymers. In particular, the polypeptides can cleave in a galacturonic acid polymer at internal glycosidic bonds. The novel enzyme XghA is further defined by its amino acid sequence and encoding DNA sequence. This polypeptide was expressed in yeast cells and has been used to treat vegetable material, in particular soy and fruit juice in the preparation of edible foodstuffs.